

of Nadia District fell ill on 28.2.05 due to food poisoning as the food got infected by insecticide spread by an owner of the banana plantation firm located close to the school. An FIR has been lodged against the owner of the plantation firm.

In another case, 85 children of Metyadahar Primary School of Paschim Midnipur District fell ill on 4.5.05 after consumption of mid-day meal. The State Government had reported that the incident was inquired and no criminal intension or willful misdeed was found.

Effect of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

599. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, out of school children have nearly been halved in certain States, while the position is still grim in the backward States, i.e. Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Orissa, and

(b) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help these backward States both financially and physically to improve their position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The number of out of school children reported by States in March, 2006 is estimated at 70 lakh. In Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Orissa, the out of the school children reported in the same period show the position as 23.2 lakh, 1.68 lakh and 6.03 lakh respectively. These three are priority States in so far as financial allocations under SSA is concerned, as well as received regular capacity buildings from national resource teams.

Future of Central Tibetan schools, administration

600. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to close down